

USSN 09/467,712
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

REMARKS

The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the personal interview of April 24, 2005 and the Examiner's Answer mailed May 20, 2005. Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Tran for his comments during the personal interview of April 24, 2005 with Applicant's new representative Mr. Robert Evora. Examiner Tran is respectfully requested to consider the application in view of the amendments and associated remarks set forth herein.

I. SUMMARY OF THE AMENDMENTS

The present claim 1 has been amended by incorporating the features of the previous dependent claim 4. The present claim 30 has been amended by incorporating the features of the previous dependent claims 31 and 32. Previous claims 4, 31, and 32 are cancelled. Previous claims 59, 60, 61, and 62 are cancelled. Claims 1-3, 5-30, 33-58 remain pending. The amendments to the application are fully supported by the original specification. No new subject matter has been added. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original claims in this application and other applications.

II. REMARKS

Applicant's new representative respectfully withdraws the appeal currently pending in the above-identified application by concurrently filing a Request for Continued Examination. A Request for Continued Examination is being filed together with this preliminary amendment. Previously claims 1-3, 5, 9, 9-14, 16, 17, 19, 21, 23-26, 28-31, 34, 36-38, 43, 48, 50-53, 55-57, and 59-62 were rejected and claims 4, 6-8, 15, 18, 20, 22, 27, 32, 33, 35, 39-42, 44-47, 49, 54, and 58 were objected to for depending upon a rejected base claim.

From the personal interview of April 24, 2005 we thank the Examiner for appreciating that the known art, including *Aldermeshian et al.*, neither anticipates nor renders obvious the subject matter of the previous claims 4, and 32-33, which have been

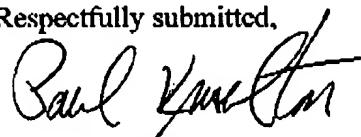
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incorporated into the present amended claims 1 and 30, respectively. Accordingly, it is the undersigned's belief that the presently pending claims 1-3, 5-30, and 33-58 are now in condition for allowance.

III. CONCLUSION

Applicant's new representative respectfully requests allowance of all the claims presently pending in this case. Should Examiner Tran believe that a telephone conference would be useful to resolve any concerns and move this application to allowance, Examiner Tran is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below. Otherwise, Applicant respectfully requests the present application be allowed and a Notice of Allowability issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: July 20, 2005
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